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The State: Its History and Development Viewed Sociologically. By FRANZ OPPENHEIMER, Privat Docent of Political Sciences in the University of Berlin. Authorized translation by John M. Gitterman. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1914. Pp. vii+302. \$2.00.

Everyone who is trying to keep pace with sociological and economic thought must read this book. For several years it has been evident that the author was due to make an impression upon traditionalism, and in this volume he presents a digest of his argument.

The publishers claim too much when they say: "It is, indeed, nothing less than an entirely new theory of the origin and development of all state formations." In fact there is nothing in the book on the process of civic evolution which has not been familiar for a long time to all well-informed sociologists. The author frankly credits the substance of that part of his theory to Gumpłowicz (p. 20). The contribution which Oppenheimer has actually made to social theory is a thesis which amounts to a revolutionary assertion as to the relation of civic to economic evolution.

The author's own epitome is in these words:

"To the originally purely sociological idea of the state I have added the economic phase and formulated it as follows:

"What then is the state as a sociological concept? The state, completely in its genesis, essentially and almost completely during the first stages of its existence, is a social institution, forced by a victorious group of men or a defeated group, with the sole purpose of regulating the dominion of the victorious group over the vanquished, and securing itself against revolt from within and attacks from abroad. Teleologically this dominion had no other purpose than the economic exploitation of the vanquished by the victors [p. 15].

"I propose in the following discussion to call one's own labor and the equivalent exchange of one's own labor for the labor of others, the 'economic means' for the satisfaction of needs, while the unrequited appropriation of the labor of others will be called the political means. . . . All world history, from primitive times up to our own civilization, presents a single phase, a contest namely between the economic and the political means; and it can present only this phase until we have achieved free citizenship" (pp. 25 and 27).

If anyone imagines that the sociologists have been unproductive, since Schäffle scandalized the German economists by his attempt at a

functional account of society, he would be jostled into a different state of mind by reading the array of evidence and the interpretation of it that follows. He who runs may read in it the *reductio ad absurdum* of both the classical and the socialistic economic interpretations of history. It is no new idea to the sociologists, but no one has before put it in such conclusive form, that the function of political control is virtually co-ordinate with physical cause and effect in shaping economic institutions. In the antithetic terms the "economic means" and the "political means," Oppenheimer has not merely done a piece of phrase-making. He has invented a master key to sealed vaults in capitalistic theory.

In the name of students who have no time to waste, we protest against the nuisance of uncut leaves in this class of books.

A. W. S.

Between Eras: From Capitalism to Democracy. By ALBION W. SMALL. Kansas City, Mo.: The Intercollegiate Press. Pp. 731. \$1.65.¹

Dr. Alexander has asked me to review *Between Eras*. I am sorry that my time does not permit the fuller review which the book deserves, but I do want to say most emphatically that this is an extraordinary book.

Professor Albion W. Small, LL.D., is head of the Department of Sociology in the University of Chicago, and ranks as one of the foremost men in his special field of science. This book is evidently an effort on his part to speak the language of the common man, and he does it with immense success. In fact, his language is so vivid, so much the language of the street, that I wonder that our magazine editors have not long ago been after him. Not only does it sparkle with epigrams and racy modern expressions, but it is put in the form of conversations, and runs along a clearly defined thread of narrative, so that the book is actually a sort of novel. At the same time, it is packed with ideas and takes hold of a man's intellect with a firm grip from beginning to end.

The characters who carry on the conversation in the book are all upper-class people, business men, professors, and so forth. I surmise that some of them at least are snapshots of typical men whom Professor Small knows personally. They are all wandering in the maze of our present situation and seeking an honest way out of it. The story carries them forward to a real solution of troubles.

¹ This notice appeared in the *Methodist Review*, April, 1914. It is quoted by permission of the editor.